

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1013

Condemning the violent suppression of legitimate political dissent and gross human rights abuses in the Republic of Guinea.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2010

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Condemning the violent suppression of legitimate political dissent and gross human rights abuses in the Republic of Guinea.

Whereas, on December 23, 2008, a military junta calling itself the National Council for Democracy and Development (CNDD) seized power in the Republic of Guinea hours after the death of longtime President Lansana Conté, suspended the national legislature and the constitution, and committed to hold free and fair national elections as part of a “peaceful transition” to a civilian-led government;

Whereas delays in electoral preparations and statements by CNDD leader Captain Moussa Dadis Camara that he might run for president, in contravention of earlier com-

mitments that neither he nor any other member of the CNDD would run as a candidate in the elections, provoked increasing public discontent with the junta;

Whereas, on September 28, 2009, tens of thousands of unarmed civilians gathered at the national soccer stadium in Conakry to protest against the CNDD;

Whereas security forces responded by surrounding the stadium and opening fire with live ammunition on the crowd, reportedly killing over 150 people and injuring over 1,000;

Whereas prominent opposition leaders were then beaten and arrested by soldiers, demonstrators and opposition party members were detained without charge, and at least 60 women were brutally raped, sexually molested, or killed by security forces, many of them in public and in full sight of their commanders;

Whereas an investigation by Human Rights Watch indicates that “the [stadium] massacre and widespread rape were organized and premeditated” and that armed forces had attempted to “hide evidence of the crimes by seizing bodies from the stadium and the city’s morgues and burying them in mass graves”;

Whereas the security forces responsible for the violence on September 28, 2009, reportedly included troops from the Presidential Guard and gendarmes working with the State Secretariat for Special Services, both of which answer directly to the presidency;

Whereas, on October 30, 2009, the United Nations Secretary-General announced the appointment of an international commission of inquiry to probe the violence of September 28, 2009;

Whereas the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has appointed President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso to mediate between the CNDD, opposition parties, and civil society in an effort to break the current political impasse;

Whereas the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union, and the United States have imposed targeted sanctions, variously including travel restrictions, financial asset freezes, and an arms embargo, on CNDD members in response to the violent crackdown and perceived CNDD resistance to a democratic transition;

Whereas while others were imposing sanctions against the CNDD, it was announced in October that the China International Fund, a Hong-Kong registered company with ties to Chinese state-owned enterprises and government agencies, has signed a \$7,000,000,000 deal with the CNDD to develop Guinea's vast mineral resources;

Whereas the CNDD reportedly has imported millions of dollars worth of weapons since the September 28, 2009, crackdown and junta members reportedly are recruiting militias, adding a troubling and potentially explosive ethnic dimension to the crisis;

Whereas targeted political killings reportedly have been carried out in Conakry since September 2009, opposition members continue to face the threat of arrest and violent assault, and the junta has banned all public protests;

Whereas, on December 3, 2009, Captain Moussa Dadis Camara was shot in the head in an apparent assassination attempt by his aid-de-camp Lt. Aboubakar Diakite (Toumba) and flown to Morocco for treatment, prompt-

ing analysts to warn of a potential counter-coup and a further deterioration of security in Guinea;

Whereas a further deterioration of the political and security situation in Guinea could have catastrophic consequences not only for Guinea, but also for neighboring Liberia and Sierra Leone, both of which only recently emerged from deadly, protracted conflicts;

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has referred to the September 28, 2009, crackdown as “criminality of the greatest degree”, and stated that Guinea’s military leaders must recognize “that they cannot remain in power, that they must turn back to the people the right to choose their own leaders”; and

Whereas, on January 6, 2010, interim junta leader General Sekouba Konate invited the opposition in Guinea to select a prime minister in advance of the formation of a transitional government and offered security guarantees to opposition leaders who had fled the country: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) condemns the violent suppression of legiti-
- 3 mate political dissent and gross human rights
- 4 abuses, including mass murder and extreme sexual
- 5 violence, perpetrated by forces under the command
- 6 of the National Council for Democracy and Develop-
- 7 ment (CNDD) in Guinea and demands that the per-
- 8 petrators of these crimes be brought to justice;

1 (2) expresses grave concern about the further
2 deterioration of security and rule of law in Guinea,
3 particularly with regard to ongoing reports of—

4 (A) harassment of opposition figures,
5 members of civil society, and journalists;

6 (B) rising ethnic tensions;

7 (C) growing cleavages within the CNDD
8 and the military which raise the potential of a
9 violent counter-coup;

10 (D) recruitment of militias and other irreg-
11 ular forces from within Guinea and neighboring
12 countries;

13 (E) importation of weapons despite an
14 arms embargo on the region; and

15 (F) uncertainty about the prospects for re-
16 storing civilian rule through free, fair, and
17 transparent elections;

18 (3) calls on China to cease its material support
19 for the CNDD by publically announcing the can-
20 cellation of China International Fund's
21 \$7,000,000,000 minerals and infrastructure deal in
22 Guinea;

23 (4) urges all Member States of the United Na-
24 tions to join the United States, the European Union
25 (EU), the African Union (AU), and the Economic

1 Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) to im-
2 pose sanctions against the regime until constitu-
3 tional order and rule of law has been restored in
4 Guinea;

5 (5) supports the efforts of the ECOWAS and
6 the AU to find a resolution to the current political
7 crisis in Guinea;

8 (6) urges the leaders of the CNDD to uphold
9 their pledges to form an inclusive transitional gov-
10 ernment, refrain from standing as candidates in the
11 upcoming national elections, and to facilitate the
12 conduct of free, fair, and transparent elections that
13 meet international standards and reflect the will of
14 the Guinean people; and

15 (7) expresses solidarity with the people of Guin-
16 ea during this time of extreme uncertainty and ex-
17 presses deep regret for the victims of the September
18 28, 2009, crackdown and subsequent political im-
19 passe.

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